

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 SAJ-01 EB-11 NIC-01

COME-00 DRC-01 /074 W

----- 001040

R 201057Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8077

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, UR

SUBJ: RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER V.N. NOVIKOV

REF: MOSCOW 5692

1. DURING TOUR OF STANKI EXHIBITION APRIL 19 WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER V.N. NOVIKOV, DEPUTY MINISTER MACHINE TOOL AND INSTRUMENT-MAKING INDUSTRY PROKOPOVICH ADVISED EMBOFF THAT NOVIKOV HAD RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR ALL MACHINERY PRODUCING INDUSTRIES. EMBOFF NOTED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT NOVIKOV WAS CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC QUESTIONS AND ASKED WHETHER NEWLY-NAMED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ARKHIPOV HAD ASSUMED THIS RESPONSIBILITY. (AS REPORTED REFTTEL, PRESIDENT OF USSR CHAMBER COMMERCE/INDUSTRY BORISOV IMPLIED EARLIER TO EMBOFF THAT THIS WAS CASE.) PROKOPOVICH AVOIDED DIRECT ANSWER BUT INDICATED THAT SOME REORGANIZATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN TOP LEVEL OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE.

2. NOVIKOV WAS ACCOMPANIED DURING TOUR OF STANKI BY MINISTER OF GENERAL MACHINE BUILDING S.A. AFANAS'YEV, WHO TOOK NOTES ON ITEMS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO NOVIKOV. PROKOPOVICH TOLD EMBOFF THAT AFANAS'YEV'S MINISTRY PRODUCED "WIDE RANGE OF MACHINERY," BUT NOT SURPRISINGLY DECLINED TO BE DRAWN OUT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFICS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH COMMENTS BY PROKOPOVICH AND BORISOV (REFTEL) REGARDING RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS BY NO MEANS CONCLUSIVE, THEY DO RAISE POSSIBILITY THAT ARKHIPOV'S ELEVATION TO DUPUTY PRIME MINISTER STATUS INVOLVED SOME RESHUFFLING OF RESPONSIBILITIES. SHOULD NOVIKOV NOW BECOME LESS ACTIVE IN FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AREA, THIS COULD INDICATE THAT ARKHIPOV HAS ASSUMED AT LEAST SOME OF HIS PROVIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW05869
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740093-0087
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740427/aaaaaxli.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 5692
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER V.N. NOVIKOV
TAGS: PINR, UR, (NOVIKOV, V N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005